

## Iraqi leader on Moscow mission

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi arrived in Moscow Monday, the official TASS news agency said. TASS gave no details of Hammadi's Moscow mission which seemed certain to be linked to Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2. The Soviet Union, for many years Iraq's chief weapons supplier, has condemned the attack but maintained contact with Baghdad in an attempt to defuse the crisis. Later Monday the Iraqi minister held talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze but no details were immediately available on the results of the talks. The Iraqi news agency, however, reported that the two sides exchanged views frankly and in detail. The agency quoted Hammadi as saying the talks were "useful" and the two sides agreed "to continue contact in the framework of preserving and improving bilateral relations." The agency said Hammadi's visit would last three days.

# Jordan Times

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## 'Egypt will not leave ACC'

CAIRO (R) — Egypt wants to maintain its 18-month-old economic alliance with Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, Egyptian state-owned newspapers reported Sunday. The newspapers quoted Hilmi Namar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), as saying he would fly to Amman Wednesday to carry on with his work in the secretariat. "Egypt is keen on remaining in the Arab Cooperation Council which is considered one of the forums of Arab unity," Namar was quoted as saying in early editions of Monday newspapers. The ACC was formed in February 1989 to link the economy of the four Arab states with the eventual aim of forming a common market. Egypt has condemned Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2 and has transported some 2,000 troops to Saudi Arabia in line with an Arab summit resolution. Jordan and Yemen abstained. Members of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) sent a cable to President Hosni Mubarak Saturday asking him to call for an emergency ACC meeting to discuss the "expulsion" of Iraq from the grouping. The cable asked Mubarak to pull out of the alliance if Jordan and Yemen failed to back Iraq's expulsion.

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## Iraqi leader thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a cable from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein thanking him for his cable of congratulations on the Iraqi initiative to establish permanent peace with Iran. The Iraqi president wished the King continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Jordanian people. In his cable to the President last week, the King voiced hope that the Iran-Iraq agreement would usher in a new phase of permanent peace in the Gulf region. The King also sent another cable to the Iranian leadership expressing congratulations on the agreement to end all forms of hostilities, exchange prisoners of war and establish permanent peace.

## Sytenco due today

AMMAN (Petra) — A special Soviet envoy Yuri Sytenco is expected to arrive in Jordan Tuesday to meet with Jordanian officials and discuss with them the current situation in the region.

## Dumas to visit Moscow

PARIS (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will visit the Soviet Union Aug. 25-26, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. A spokesman said the visit had been planned for some time. But the Gulf crisis was certain to be the key item in the weekend talks between Dumas and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

## Iraqis threatened in the Philippines

MANILA (R) — Iraqis residing in the Philippines say they have received death threats since Iraq took over Kuwait Aug. 2, a government minister said Monday. Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said the Iraqi and other Middle Eastern embassies in Manila had informed him they had received threats. Manglapus was guest speaker on a Monday evening programme at a government television station when a caller, identifying himself as an Iraqi named Abdul Karam, said he had been getting threats from a syndicate, which he did not name. "Not only private Iraqis are now telling us this, but the Iraqi embassy itself has informed us that they have been receiving threats," Manglapus said on the air.

## MK proposes Palestinian 'shields'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli parliament member Rahaman Zeevi proposed Monday that Palestinians be used as "human shields" against an Iraqi attack. "We should take them (Palestinians) and put them in front of the invading Arab forces," Zeevi told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. Zeevi's Mokedet, or "homeland," party advocates the transfer of all Palestinians from Israeli-occupied territories.

## Sheikh Sabah says Kuwait still has 'glorious future'

ABU DHABI (R) — Kuwait's deposed ruler said Monday his country would emerge stronger after Iraq's defeat. "Do not be upset... we will emerge winners because we are right and have a just cause," Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah said in an address to the Kuwaiti people.

## 17 vessels at Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A total of 17 vessels are discharging cargo at Aqaba, Ports Corporation Director Awad Tal said Monday. The ports corporation expects 19 other ships to dock by the end of August, he said. No ship arrived in Aqaba Monday, but at least six vessels are expected there shortly to load Jordanian phosphate and to unload cargo of cars, aluminium and sesame. Tal said. He said four vessels left the harbour Monday after unloading cargo. Two of these ships, he added, were loaded with Jordanian phosphates.

# Iraq moves foreigners to strategic locations

- Bush: Iraqi government responsible for 'hostages' safety
- Baghdad sets deadline for transfer of embassies

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ ANNOUNCED Monday that it has moved Western detainees to possible military targets, making good its threat to use them as human shields against a potential American attack.

"Iraq's foreign guests have been in fact moved to all vital and military installations. They have been provided with all modern facilities and they are all in good physical condition," a national council spokesman was quoted as saying by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

The three-line dispatch provided no further details, such as how many foreigners had been moved or to what installations. It followed an announcement that foreign diplomats who do not close their missions in Kuwait would be treated like other foreigners — who have been detained and used to protect Iraqi installations.

U.S. President George Bush —

speaking before the announced movement of Westerners — demanded that the foreigners be freed.

"And I want there to be no misunderstanding. I will hold the government of Iraq responsible for the safety and well being of American citizens being held against their will," Bush told a Baltimore meeting of U.S. veterans of foreign wars.

"Whatever these innocent people are called, they are in fact hostages," he said.

Bush repeated U.S. demands that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, which it invaded Aug. 2, and he likened Saddam Hussein to Hitler.

Meanwhile, two senior U.N. officials headed for Baghdad Monday to urge Iraq to free foreigners held in Kuwait and Iraq. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Saddam requested the envoys be sent.

Iraq said Monday that diplomats who fail to close their missions in

Kuwait by Friday will be treated as any other foreign citizen. Many foreigners are being detained, in particular Americans and Britons.

Austria, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the Soviet Union, West Germany and the United States said they had no plans to close their missions in Kuwait or outright refused.

None of them recognises Baghdad's announcement of a merger between Iraq and Kuwait.

Belgium and the Netherlands were withholding comment until EC foreign ministers discuss this issue at a special session in Paris Tuesday.

Norway declined to say what it would do.

In a separate move, Iraq Monday warned its citizens against harbouring foreigners, according to an announcement monitored in London.

At least 12 Americans, along with a number of other foreign nationals, were taken from hotels in Kuwait's capital and moved to undisclosed locations, the State Department said Monday.

Protests were lodged by U.S. diplomats in Kuwait and Iraq, but the whereabouts of the Americans remains unknown, spokesman Richard

Boucher said.

The Americans were staying at the Hyatt, Hilton and International hotels.

"The foreign guests of Iraq have indeed been hosted in various vital and military installations," Iraqi News Agency quoted a National Assembly spokesman as saying.

"They have been provided with modern amenities and they all enjoy good health," the agency added.

"Their presence along with Iraqi families at vital targets may prevent military aggression," Saddam Hussein said in a message broadcast Sunday.

In a later statement National Assembly Speaker Saadi Medhdi Saleh drew a parallel with the U.S. internment of ethnic Japanese in World War II.

"We note and remind the people of the world that during World War II the United States held around 100,000 of its own citizens of Japanese origin in special detention camps in anticipation of a (further) Japanese attack..."

"The United States did not take such a measure against its citizens of

(Continued on page 4)

## Red Cross sends message to Iraq

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday that its president is sending a message to Iraq as part of its efforts to secure respect for humanitarian law in the Gulf crisis.

The contents of the message by ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga was not revealed but as senior official indicated it would deal with all issues of "humanitarian concern", including the fate of thousands of foreign nationals trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

"All foreigners having difficulties to leave are of concern to the ICRC and we have ideas, we are willing to act, and we want to contribute to the solution of this problem," said Angelo Gnaedinger, the ICRC chief Middle East delegate, in response to question.

Gnaedinger was also asked at a press conference whether the reported transfer of foreign nationals to strategic locations was in violation of the Geneva convention.

"I want to abstain from any comment on the legal side or on the proposals we have made," he replied. "We need some time to really assess the facts, not only the declarations."

More than 20 countries have asked the all-Swiss humanitarian agency for help in getting their nationals out of the region.

Gnaedinger, who said he was carrying Sommaruga's message to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, spoke at a press conference shortly before his planned departure for Baghdad.

He said the message was part of the ICRC's "intensified dialogue with all interested states." He said the dialogue is dealing with all issues of "humanitarian concern." These included, he said, the situation of the civilian population in Kuwait, the foreign nationals "who have problems leaving Kuwait or Iraq" and the "potential shortage of food and medical supplies."

"We work within the framework of international humanitarian law and we want that it be applied," Gnaedinger said. "Our contribution is our attempt through dialogue to come to concrete actions," he said the dialogue required a "certain confidentiality."

Gnaedinger said the ICRC was

(Continued on page 3)

## Iraq moves troops from Iran to Kuwait

NICOSIA (AP) — As Iraq's troop strength facing U.S. forces jumped, Iraqi soldiers Monday were winding up their pullout from occupied Iranian territory, according to Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Sunday revised upward the number of Iraqi troops poised on the Kuwaiti border with Saudi Arabia for a possible attack from 160,000 to 200,000.

The jump in Iraqi troop strength indicated that soldiers from the Iranian border regions may already have taken up positions in Kuwait.

Iraqi troops have been speedily withdrawn from occupied Iranian border areas as part of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's peace initiative to Tehran, which frees forces to confront the growing U.S. military presence.

Cheney, on a tour of U.S. military deployments in Saudi Arabia, refused to say how many American troops are there. U.S. troops were dispatched to protect the kingdom after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Hunting souvenirs, the Iraqis cadged from Iranian troops the trademark headbands they wore in battle during the eight-year Gulf war, according to IRNA. The news agency said they expressed desires for "more brotherly relations" between their countries.

Departing Iraq soldiers waved at their former enemies as they pulled out of fortifications along the 50 kilometre-long Shalamcheh-Kushk axis.

The agency also quoted Iraqi tanker Mohammad Kazim as saying that fighting Iraqis had rankled him because of their common religion.

The withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the border areas is due to be completed Tuesday.

The pullout is accompanied by the biggest prisoner exchange since World War II, with both sides holding a total of 100,000 prisoners, according to the U.N. and diplomats.

Iraq's army daily, Al Qadisiyah, has reported that an unspecified number of the 30 divisions it said were deployed along the 1,080-kilometre Iran-Iraq frontier following the August 1988 ceasefire will be sent south to confront U.S. forces in Saudi

(Continued on page 3)

## U.S. enlists physical backing of UAE, Oman

SALALAH, Oman (Agencies) — The United States Monday beefed up its military support of Gulf states, basing air force cargo planes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and saying it was going to sell more fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

Defence officials, travelling here with U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on a four-day swing through the Gulf, confirmed reports that the Bush administration planned to sell more F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

Cheney, who announced the new basing agreement with the UAE in Abu Dhabi Monday, was to travel to Saudi Arabia Monday night for talks with government leaders.

The UAE, an alliance comprising seven sheikhdoms, on Monday became the first of the Arab governments in the southern Gulf region to publicly announce overt military cooperation with the United States.

On Sunday, it had announced it would allow the deployment of Arab and "friendly" forces on its territory as part of multinational efforts to defend the Gulf region.

A senior Pentagon official travelling with Cheney said he was unable to comment on how many of the U.S. air force transport aircraft would operate out of the emirates, located at the Gulf's narrow mouth. At least five were seen at Bateen air base, where Cheney's plane landed.

The official also said he did not know what other countries might be sending forces to the emirates.

In Oman Cheney met Sultan

Qaboos and senior defence officials at the sultan's palace in this southern Omani city on the shores of the Arabian Sea before flying on to Jeddah for talks which were expected to include King Fahd.

UAE leaders gave no indication of which Arab troops might be based in the country, which like Kuwait was hotly criticised by Baghdad for allegedly driving down oil prices by overproducing.

Britain has sent 10 naval vessels and 24 warplanes to the Gulf and is negotiating with Bahrain for greater access for its planes.

U.S. and British warships have been authorised to use force to implement U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq but U.S. officials say Washington was holding off on unilateral naval action against Iraqi tankers in hopes the U.N. Security Council will approve more forceful measures.

U.S. warships fired warning shots near two Iraqi tankers on Saturday but allowed them to carry on and are shadowing them.

In a dispatch datelined Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency reported that troops from Oman and Morocco arrived Monday in the kingdom's eastern zone.

This was the first report that Oman, the Arabian peninsula's second-largest country after Saudi Arabia, would send military units to help the Saudis "defend" against possible Iraqi

(Continued on page 5)

## Saleh: Foreign presence is terrorism

SANAA (R) — Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh told some 70,000 anti-Western protesters Monday that the presence of foreign navies in Arab territorial waters was an act of terrorism that would fail to achieve its aims.

Addressing one of the biggest demonstrations against the Western military presence in the Gulf, Saleh said:

"The plying of these navies in Arab territorial waters is a terrorist act which will fail to achieve its aims as the strength of Arab resistance will force them to turn back."

In an indirect criticism of Saudi Arabia's call for foreign forces to help resist any possible Iraqi attack, Saleh said: "Those who called in these foreign forces will eventually prefer peaceful solutions enabling our (Arab) Nation to overcome all difficulties."

The marchers, who were led by political and trade union leaders, set out from the centre of the Yemeni capital, passing by the Saudi and British embassies on their way to the presidential palace, but no disorderly incidents were reported.

They carried pictures of Saleh, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdul Nasser and shouted slogans attacking the foreign military presence on Arab territory.

The slogans included "No blockade, no aggression, we will resist the Americans," "We will sacrifice our lives for you, Iraq" and "Our brethren in Iran, (Muslim) holy places are degraded." Saleh told the crowd: "The Yemeni political leadership will continue working with our (Arab) brethren to achieve a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis."

He said Sunday a diplomatic solution to the crisis was possible but "the problem lies in the existence of an international game and there is a serious plot against the region."

## Nakayama arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived here Monday, the third stop of a Middle East tour focusing on the Gulf crisis.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met Nakayama at the airport on arrival from Oman.

Nakayama was expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. He will also hold talks with Qasem and other officials.

The United States has been pressing Japan to play a more active role in the multi-national effort to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Officials accompanying Nakayama on his earlier stops in Saudi Arabia and then Oman said the options considered by Japan include financial assistance

through the United Nations to the multi-national forces in Saudi Arabia and sending medical teams to the region.

While in Oman, he met with Sultan Qaboos at his palace in the southern capital of Salalah on the Arabian Sea.

Nakayama earlier held similar talks with his Omani counterpart, Yousef Ben Alawi.

Nakayama was to visit Egypt and Turkey after Jordan.

The tour includes the same countries that Japanese Prime Minister Tashiki Kaifu was to visit as of Aug. 18, explaining that Kaifu postponed his trip until October. He is delivering letters from Kaifu to the respective leaders.

In Saudi Arabia, Nakayama has said he hoped that the prime minister would be able to visit the region in October.

## IAEA tells Iraq, Kuwait to settle dispute peacefully

GENEVA (R) — Iraq and Kuwait, two countries at the heart of the Gulf crisis, both attended a multinational conference on nuclear weapons Monday and were told that disputes had to be settled peacefully.

Delegates from both countries sat under one roof for the start of the conference — despite speculation Iraq would walk out to protest against the presence of a Kuwaiti delegation.

"This fourth review conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is taking place at a moment of dangerous confrontation in a strategic region of the world," Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told the opening session of the conference.

"The present conflict illustrates starkly that a region of great wealth in human resources and oil may be crippled in its legitimate development efforts by arms races and armed conflict, unless mutual confidence and stability are built up by accommodation, peaceful resolution of conflict, cooperation and verified arms control," he added.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2 and the subsequent build-up of an international task force in the region has brought the Gulf to the brink of war.

In Geneva, delegates from over 100 nations began examining adherence to a 20-year-old treaty banning the spread of nuclear weapons.

A total of 141 countries, including Iraq and Kuwait, have signed the treaty which came into force in 1970.

The IAEA said after a visit in May it had found no evidence Iraq was diverting material from its nuclear energy programme to military use.

The four-week conference, which takes place every five years, will review steps taken by signatory nuclear powers to spread nuclear technology for peaceful purposes while ensuring it is not used to make bombs.

Blix, whose agency monitors compliance by regular, on-the-spot visits, suggested a system of international storage of plutonium, the radioactive element used in nuclear weapons and reactors.

## APPEAL

### MILK FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan. From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread and milk.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk and food supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres: The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

GUVS - Amman Governorate	Tel. 639555
GUVS - Irbid Governorate	(02)242518
GUVS - Zarqa Governorate	(09)981712
GUVS - Balqa Governorate	(05)555285
GUVS - Karak Governorate	(03)351169
GUVS - Ma'an Governorate	(03)32477
GUVS - Tafila Governorate	(03)342365
GUVS - Mafrq Governorate	(04)432799

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL AND THE COMPASSIONATE

## AN APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF JORDAN

from the north, south, east and west you are invited to take part in

### A WOMEN MARCH

to express support for Jordan's noble and brave stand and to pledge allegiance to Sharif Hussein Ben Talal and to declare unity of ranks in the battle we are waging against the forces of injustice and oppression and in defence of our Islamic shrines and the honour of the Arab Nation.

The march will be held Thursday August 23, 1990 at 4:30 p.m. with the first group of women assembling at the car park of the Shannak Building, Maxim Circle, Jabal Hussein. The second group will join the march at Al Hussein College School, Jabal Hussein. The march will proceed to the gates of the Basman Palace.

God is great

God conquers all plots

The preparatory committee for the march  
Tel: 619096, 674973, 662522, 667937



# Palestinians seek gas masks

Other Flights (Terminal 2)		MARKET PRICES	
12:20	Beirut (ME)	<i>Uppertower prices in the past few</i>	
12:20	Moscow (SU)	Apples	\$27 1/2/50
12:25	Riyadh (SV)	Appricots	\$30 1/2/50
12:25	Rome (AZ)	Bananas	\$50 1/4/50
12:30	Beirut (ME)	Bananas (Makassar)	\$50 1/4/50
12:30	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)	Bonons	\$26 1/2/50
		Cabbages	\$36 1/2/50
		Carrots	\$33 1/2/50
		Cauliflowers	\$26 1/2/50
		Onions	\$18 1/2/50
		Cucumbers (large)	\$22 1/2/50
		Cucumbers (small)	\$23 1/2/50
		Eggplants	\$18 1/2/50
		Figs	\$30 1/4/50
		Garlic	\$33 1/2/50
		Greenbeans	\$25 1/2/50
		Grapes	\$33 1/2/50
		Lentils (green)	\$25 1/2/50
		Lentils (yellow)	\$25 1/2/50
		Mattos	\$45 1/4/50
		Macarons	\$22 1/2/50
		Macarons (small)	\$20 1/2/50
		Onion (dry)	\$22 1/2/50
		Onions	\$27 1/2/50
		Peas	\$25 1/2/50
		Peasches	\$43 1/4/50
		Pears	\$26 1/2/50
		Pepper (hot)	\$28 1/2/50
		Pepper (sweet)	\$26 1/2/50
		Peasches	\$40 1/2/50
		Radishes	\$26 1/2/50
		Sage	\$28 1/2/50
		Sweet melon	\$25 1/2/50

  

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
Terminal 1	
1:15	London (RJ)
1:30	Belgrade (RJ)
1:40	Tripoli (RJ)
2:00	Cairo (RJ)
2:15	Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
2:30	Vienna (RJ)
2:45	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
3:00	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
3:15	Paris (RJ)
3:30	Bahaira, Doha (RJ)
3:45	Dhahran (RJ)
4:10	Jeddah (RJ)
4:20	Cairo (RJ)
4:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
5:15	Larnaca (RJ)
5:15	Dhahran (RJ)

  

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
1:15	Beirut (ME)
4:00	Riyadh (SV)
4:00	Moscow (SU)

10/11/1941



## JD 100,000 donated to Iraqi children

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Donations worth over JD 100,000 in monetary aid and commodities came pouring in within the first 24 hours after the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) launched a worldwide appeal for donations to the children of Iraq.

Transportation companies had volunteered their deep freeze trucks for the transportation of foodstuffs such as milk, eggs and biscuits and the first deliveries were expected to be made in a "few days." Dr. Abdullah Khatib, GUVS executive president told the Jordan Times Monday.

About JD 50,000 of the contributions came in cash and the other 50,000 came in commodities, Dr. Khatib said. The donations were received by the organisation during the first 24 hours after the appeal was announced during a press conference Sunday.

He said that so far only Jordanians had responded to the appeal which is aimed at providing necessary nutritional

supplies to children in Iraq and Kuwait. Khatib said that he expected the world community to respond to the appeal despite the U.N. decision to sanction Iraq. "This is not economic aid, it's humanitarian," he said.

GUVS officials confirmed that West Bank charitable societies and Yemeni citizens had contacted the organisation in order to receive exact information on how to make their contributions.

Khatib said that he had given over 14 television interviews to foreign television stations who have had camera crews in Jordan since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, and briefed them on the aims and procedure of the appeal.

A letter of appeal was sent to all heads of states, United Nations organisation, regional and international councils, organisations and societies inviting the world community to participate with the Jordanian society in a humanitarian campaign to provide food to all children of Iraq regardless of origin.

Contributions, which were made Sunday afternoon and early Monday, came mostly from members of the business community who made wholehearted contributions from anywhere between JD 100 to JD 3,000.

Dr. Khatib said he was surprised and pleased about the call by the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce to the Jordanian business community to actively participate in the campaign. He said he hoped other organisations would follow suit.

"Although the Jordanian people and government are very anxious to ensure the survival of the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait under the present circumstances, Jordan alone cannot provide all of Iraq's nutritional needs if sanctions are prolonged," Khatib said. "Therefore the participation of the world community in giving humanitarian aid is essential," he added.

GUVS officials explained that monetary donations would be used to buy essential foodstuffs which would be sent to Iraq.

## UNRWA names new director for Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has appointed Franke De Jonge as director general for its office in Jordan, succeeding Elie Saaf who had served in the post for the past four years.

Saaf will replace De Jonge at the UNRWA Beirut office while De Jonge will take his post in Jordan, according to an UNRWA official.

She said that De Jonge is expected to assume his responsibilities as of October 1, 1990.

The decision for swapping the posts came from the agency's European headquarters in Vienna, Austria, the official said.

UNRWA began operations in May 1950 to give emergency assistance to the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the past three decades the number of Palestine refugees registered with the agency surpassed two million through natural population growth.

The agency's health and education operations cover Jordan, Syria, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon which host the Palestine refugees.

## Qatanani honours outgoing director

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Monday hosted a lunch in honour of Elie Saaf, director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), who is leaving Jordan to take another UNRWA post in Lebanon.

Dr. Qatanani, in a note of appreciation, thanked Saaf for his services in Jordan during the past four years and highlighted the close cooperation between UNRWA and the government of Jordan in working towards the same objective of humanitarian services to the Palestinian refugees.

## Universities presidents attend meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The presidents of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and Yarmouk University were among 490 presidents of various universities in the world who attended the ninth meeting of the International Association of Universities (IAU) which was held in Helsinki, Finland.

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazem, director general of the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) here, took part in the meeting which discussed issues of higher education and cooperation among universities of the world.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor delivered an address at the meeting emphasising the role of universities in promoting socio-economic development worldwide, said Kazem in a statement upon returning to Amman.

The Paris-based IAU was established in 1950 to promote practical academic cooperation and to assist university institutions throughout the world.

The IAU secretariat provides information, maintains a reference library and carries out research and studies to help promote higher education.

## Algerian parliamentarians condemn U.S. intervention in the Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Algerian People's National Assembly arrived here Monday and said it would hold talks with Jordanian officials on ways to solve the Gulf crisis and end foreign intervention in Arab affairs.

The delegation, which arrived at the border post of Ramtha from Syria, is led by assembly member Jaloul Malaeka who said that the visit was in the course of a tour of several Arab and Islamic countries.

"The delegation's talks with Arab and Islamic countries will cover the question of lifting the embargo imposed by the U.S. naval forces under the pretext of being an implementation of the U.N. Security Council's resolutions," Malaeka said in a statement upon arrival.

"Foreign intervention in Arab affairs is considered by all Arabs and Muslims as a violation of basic principles of the U.N. charter and international laws," said Malaeka in his statement.

"We, the Arabs, are able to settle our problems within the

Arab League's framework, and as long as the Gulf question is an Arab problem those massing their naval forces in the Gulf should realise this fact," said Malaeka.

Stressing that the Arabs are peace seekers, Malaeka expressed hope that the Arab countries will eventually unify their views with regard to foreign intervention.

Malaeka touched the Palestinian question and said that the U.N. Security Council resolutions on their problem and on Israel's human rights violations were never implemented. Malaeka said that several assembly delegations had been entrusted with the task of visiting Arab and Islamic countries with the purpose of bringing closer the

Arab and Islamic views and paving the ground for joint action under the umbrella of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) which is due to convene in October.

He said that world parliamentarians should display their concern over the dangerous situation in the Gulf.

Malaeka voiced his country's appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts and his ongoing endeavours at the Arab and international levels to end the crisis.

Upon arrival at the border post of Ramtha, the delegation members were welcomed by Parliament members and Algeria's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Sharif Kharrubi as well as by Ramtha district governor and mayor.

## Seminar focuses on marketing of produce

AMMAN (J.T.) — In line with its drive to help Jordanian farmers produce more crops and market their produce in Arab and foreign countries, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Monday opened a seminar for exporters of fruit and vegetables to discuss questions related to packaging, transporting and marketing products abroad.

A total of 30 participants from Jordan, together with specialists from AMO and the Ministry of Agriculture, are taking part in the month-long seminar, the second in three months.

AMO Director-General Fahed Al Azab told the opening session that AMO had laid down programmes covering various activities related to the exportation of fruits and vegetables.

"AMO has been directing its attention and efforts towards benefiting the farmers as well as the exporters, by providing guidance and advice on production, packaging and marketing of crops," Azab said.

He said that AMO would soon be able to supply exporters with sufficient information related to the exports of crops to the Arab Gulf countries through a special bulletin that will outline Jordan's exports activities to various countries.

According to the director of AMO's Agricultural Marketing Development Project (AMDP), the seminar is intended to upgrade the skills of the exporters technically, financially and administratively.

He said that the seminar was part of the AMDP's activities to promote Jordanian exports to the Arab and foreign countries.

Last June AMO organised a day-long symposium to discuss proper arrangements for the transportation and marketing of crops in the Gulf and Europe.

## Jordanian request appears to be unheeded Massive flow of evacuees continues through Ruweished

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi authorities Monday appeared to have ignored a Jordanian request to slow down the flow of people across the border as thousands of people continued to arrive in the Kingdom on their way home.

A senior official confirmed that Jordan had requested the Iraqi authorities to "understand and appreciate our difficulties" in handling thousands of people streaming in every day. "Judging from what is happening today, the request went unheeded," said the official.

"At least 9,000 have crossed by now," said the official who spoke to the Jordan Times at around 4 p.m.

According to Interior Ministry officials, the Jordanian border town of Ruweished can "comfortably" handle up to 5,000 people a day. But, as an Asian diplomat put it, "it will only be a drop in the ocean, considering the fact that there could be a flow of over 300,000 to 350,000 foreigners leaving Iraq and Kuwait in the next few days."

Arabs, Asians and East Europeans dominated Monday's flow, border officials said. Among them were 122 Soviet citizens — 72 men, 27 women and 23 children — 300 Poles and several French nationals of Arab and African origin.

According to a Soviet source, the 72 Soviet men were military experts under assignment in line with an \$320 million arms deal concluded between Kuwait and the Soviet Union in 1987 and had lived in Kuwait for the past 18 months.

The arrival of the Soviet

citizens indicated that an earlier Iraqi order, reported by the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow, banning Soviet men from leaving Kuwait or Iraq has been repealed. The Soviet source in Amman said another group of over 400 Soviet citizens were expected here Tuesday.

With the group that arrived Monday, a total of 347 Soviet citizens had left Iraq and Kuwait in the past three days.

Mystery surrounded the identity of a Soviet national, who was detained in a military camp outside Baghdad along with another 2,000 people of various nationalities.

According to a Turk, who was among a group of 34 Turks released from the camp after intervention by the Turkish government (before Ankara formally announced its adoption of sanctions against Iraq and closed Iraqi oil pipelines across its territory), a Soviet national was also held in the camp but was released after a "diplomatic pass" was issued to him. The Turk, whose account was further confirmed by an Asian national, did not know who issued the pass, and Soviet sources in Amman said they had no information about the person, who, according to the Asian, crossed to Jordan on the same day.

An Iraqi deputy prime minister was visiting Moscow Monday, and reports from the Soviet capital indicated the visit was initiated by Baghdad. It is estimated that over 7,000 Soviet citizens remain in Kuwait and Iraq.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi Airways flight landed here Monday amid signs that the Iraqi authorities had established de facto regular flights from the Iraqi capital to Amman. At

least one flight has been landing every day since Friday, and passengers aboard the flight which arrived Monday said Iraqi Airways were accepting reservations on flights to Amman on Tuesday and Wednesday. Aboard Monday's flight were 14 crew members of Air India and seven ground staff of the Indian national carrier stranded in Kuwait when Iraq invaded on Aug. 2.

The situation in Kuwait is almost normal, and there is no shortage of food, according to several members of the Air India crew.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, who flew into Baghdad Saturday from Amman and held talks with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz Sunday, was meeting Indian nationals in Kuwait Monday. Gujral was expected to return to Amman Tuesday depending upon the availability of flight routes, embassy officials said.

It was believed that Aziz had promised Gujral to relax all exit formalities for Indians who wish to leave Iraq or Kuwait. The Indian community is estimated at 165,000 in Kuwait and 8,000 in Iraq after about 8,000 Indian nationals either crossed over to Saudi Arabia or to Iraq and Jordan and took flights home.

One of the topics Gujral was expected to discuss with Aziz was the possibility of direct evacuation flights from Baghdad and of allowing Indian ships to take in Indian nationals from Kuwait. No information was immediately available on these issues. Several other Asian and East European countries had approached Iraq with similar requests but were turned down, according to reports.

## Sudan to protest at the U.N. over ship interception

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Sudanese government will lodge a protest with the United Nations Security Council against the U.S. warships' interception of a Sudanese ferry that was steaming towards Agaba to pick up Sudanese nationals evacuated from Kuwait, Sudan's minister responsible for expatriates' affairs said here Monday.

Saeed Othman Mahjoub, who flew to Amman Monday to follow up the process of transporting the Sudanese nationals home, said that his government had already protested against this action to the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Following a cabinet meeting in Khartoum on Sunday, a formal protest was handed to the U.S. ambassador to Sudan who, in turn, contacted the U.S. administration in Washington. "Washington said that the Sudanese vessel 'The Dongola' was requested to stop for inspec-

tion but its captain refused and turned back," the Sudanese minister said in a statement upon arrival in Amman.

He said that the Sudanese ministers of information, transport, foreign affairs, justice and expatriates later held a press conference during which they related the vessel's episode and strongly denounced the U.S. warships' action as a flagrant violation of all international principles and laws.

The ministers criticised the U.S. administration for claiming the right to dominate and interfere in other countries' affairs, the minister added.

He said that his visit to Jordan was to pursue efforts with the Jordanian officials in the question of transporting the Sudanese evacuees from Kuwait.

Jordan also protested to the U.S. government over the American warships' action in the open seas, and the U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison was reported to

have expressed regret over the incident.

"The Dongola" was on its way from Port Sudan to Agaba late Saturday to ferry about 1,500 Sudanese who had arrived there after fleeing Kuwait, but the ship was intercepted by the U.S. warships and ordered to turn back. The ferry docked Monday and was taking in passengers Monday evening, embassy sources said.

Upon his arrival here the Sudanese minister voiced his country's appreciation to Jordan for its assistance to the evacuees and said that his talks with the Jordanian officials "would cover the various facilities being offered to the Sudanese nationals en route to Sudan."

The Sudanese minister was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by Minister of Transport and Communications Nabil Abul Huda and a group of officials as well as Sudan's ambassador to Jordan Mahjoub Radwan.

'Jordan's birth rate one of the highest in the world'

## Jordan's population tops 3 million mark in 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — The population in Jordan had reached the mark of 3,111,000 by the end of 1989, and the birth rate was estimated at 3.4-3.6 per cent annually, one of the highest in the world, according to a statement released Monday by the National Population Committee (NPC).

Meeting under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the committee reviewed various issues pertaining to the growth of population and endorsed a sub-committee's technical committee report which provided for conducting a series of studies on population growth and the basic needs of Jordanians in terms of education, health, water supply, mother and child care and food supplies.

The committee approved the

creation of an "experts committee" to group representatives of the ministries of planning and labour as well as the Department of Statistics and NPC members to be entrusted with collecting data information that can help implement the required studies which, the committee said, should be completed in six months.

According to the statement, the committee approved the organisation of a special seminar on the progress of employment of Jordanian workforce between 1985 and 1990. The seminar will be organised in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and a German institution before the end of 1990.

In preparation for the seminar three studies will be conducted on the Jordanian workforce.

The NPC comprises Minister of Labour Qaseem Obaidat and a QAF representative as well as officials or experts representing the ministries of education, planning, health, information, Awqaf and Islamic affairs. It also includes directors of the Department of Statistics and the Passports and Civil Affairs Department.

Representatives of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, Jordanian universities and the Armed Forces were present at the meeting.

A symposium on the population situations in Jordan, held at Yarmouk University last February, said that the Kingdom's population could reach the 4 million mark by the end of the century.

## Iraq shifts troops to Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

Arabia. The new Iraqi troop arrivals in Kuwait are likely to be elements of the battle hardened 3rd and 7th army corps, which were based on the southern border and saw some of the heaviest fighting of the Gulf war.

When the U.N.-brokered ceasefire took effect, Iraq was occupying an estimated 2,000 square kilometres of Iranian

territory in the western and southern border sectors.

Tehran newspapers Monday attacked the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia and predicted that its ruler, King Fahd, would meet the same fate as the deposed emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

In an editorial, the newspaper, "Jomhuri Eslami" accused King Fahd of openly accepting U.S.

domination of his country and turning Saudi Arabia into a U.S. state.

"Just as Iraq annexed Kuwait to its territory, the United States has annexed Saudi Arabia to its realm," said the newspaper, according to IRNA.

However, the newspaper stressed that although it opposed the U.S. military presence, it also opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

## Red Cross sends message

(Continued from page 1)

assisting the Jordanian Red Crescent in setting up a reception centre at the Iraqi-Jordan frontier to provide first help to the thousands of Third World nationals leaving Kuwait and Iraq.

He also announced that both Iran and Iraq had accepted ICRC conditions for supervising the repatriation of an estimated total of about 100,000 prisoners held by

the two sides since fighting ended in 1988 in the Gulf war.

One condition is that ICRC delegates must be able to interview each prisoner without witness to make sure he is not opposed to repatriation. For the past two and a half years, Iran had barred delegates from visiting its prisoners.

The exchange, offered by Pres-

ident Saddam Hussein last week, is presently continuing at a rate of 1,000 from each side. Gensedinger said some prisoners on both sides had refused repatriation but declined to be specific.

ICRC delegations in Baghdad and Tehran have been reinforced and Gensedinger made plain that the exchange was hoped to be stepped up significantly by land and air, possibly reaching a daily 8,000.

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## Jordan Times

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## Emotions running high, reason has to prevail

WASHINGTON needs to define its objectives in the Gulf more clearly lest there be a miscalculation that would spell disaster for the entire Middle East region and the whole international community. Escalation in the Gulf seems now to be the order of the day instead of cool reflection on the pragmatic options available to the principal parties to the Gulf conflict. No one would like to see foreigners trapped in the Gulf crisis or used as "pawns." At the same time no one should tolerate seeing Washington applying the U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 calling for sanctions against Iraq in a manner inconsistent with international norms and the charter of the U.N. itself. The unilateral application by force, or a blockade, against non-military goods to Iraq is a clear sign that Washington floats international law in pursuing its policy in the Middle East. Once the West accepts to act in a manner contrary to the provisions of international law and act in a manner that cannot be construed except as an act of war, it will be the beginning of an entire process that would bring harm to all sides. What is urgently needed now is to find a basis for unconditional talks between Washington and Baghdad. These talks, once started, should focus not only on defusing tension but on all political aspects of their relationship as well. The problem in the Gulf is obviously exacerbated by the lack of understanding and negotiations between the two countries and now is the time to change the picture. It would be such a great step forward if the foreign ministers of the two countries hold immediate negotiations with a view to set in motion the process of deescalation and reasonable accommodation. There is now so much ill feelings between Washington and Baghdad that blindness and emotional reactions appear to have the upper hand. The international community should join in the effort to have the U.S. and Iraq meet forthwith to spell out their concerns and objectives. Once contacts are initiated and channels of communications have opened there would be hope for a way out. Otherwise the two sides are being pushed towards an abyss. As long as a quid pro quo can still be attained between them, there is every possibility that war and destruction might be averted.

### JORDAN PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday strongly attacked the U.S. act of piracy against a Sudanese ferry steaming towards Aqaba to pick up Sudanese nationals evacuated from Kuwait, describing this action as an attempt to prevent tens of thousands of people of different nationalities to leave the Gulf region and to face the outcome of America's adventures. The paper said that Washington should stop such piracy and express appreciation to Jordan for helping the distressed evacuees if it wants to show any humanitarian gesture in this crisis. If anyone or any party should talk about international law and the U.N. Charter, it is definitely not the United States which has been violating all norms and laws, and has today failed to pay its dues to the world organisation which total \$700 million, the paper noted. The blockade imposed on Iraq, the acts of piracy against Iraqi ships and other vessels in the Gulf and the ongoing hostile campaign against Baghdad, together form an act of war which warrants a retaliatory measure on the part of Iraq and the Arab Nation, the paper continued. If Washington disregards the thousands of the human beings fleeing from the Gulf, and shows indifference to the lives of the Iraqi women and children it is really displaying an ugly image characterised by racism and arrogance, said the paper. But, it said, if Washington wants a way out of the deadlock it should take a brave step and accept the Iraqi initiative which aims at ending the whole crisis for good.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily says that a Security Council resolution calling on Iraq to release all foreign nationals living in Kuwait and Iraq is tantamount to asking Baghdad to be ready to receive blows and attacks from all directions. Abdul Rahim Omar says that all people of the world would have supported the council resolution had it been fair and even-handed, and had it called on the foreign forces to leave the Arab land they have been occupying since the start of the crisis in the Gulf. The writer says Iraq has decided to host the foreign nationals and to provide them with food and medicine until the crisis is over, and so Baghdad found a deterrent against any aggression perpetrated by the United States and its allies. Iraq is not demanding any ransom to be paid for the foreign nationals living in Iraq and Kuwait, but instead it is offering them convenience and comfort to facilitate their stay, the writer adds. Iraq and all the people of the Arab World reject all Security Council resolutions of this kind because they are issued to serve the interests of the new imperialists and colonialists, says the writer. It is clear that the United States is only interested in laying its hands on the oil wealth in the Arab World, says Omar, and should it start the conflict it will be the only loser.

Under the title "double American standards" Al Dostour daily said in an editorial Monday that the United States has been advocating the idea that it is futile to try to impose economic sanctions on South Africa, but all of a sudden it is now rallying all countries support for its idea of imposing sanctions on Baghdad. In the Second World War the United States seized tens of thousands of Japanese and placed them under detention until the war was over, but the United States is now protesting angrily against Baghdad's measure of hosting the foreign nationals until the blockade is lifted, the paper noted. If the United States is awaiting an opportunity to end the deadlock in the Gulf crisis, it must hasten and accept Baghdad's latest initiative and opt for diplomatic action and quiet dialogue before it is too late, the paper added. It expressed hope that the United States will now re-examine its position as the time is not late for that.

### The View from Fourth Circle

## Bush/ Thatcher & Hangers-on and a cast of thousands...

By Rami G. Khouri

HERE we go again. American and British troops (with some not very convincing cover from other countries) pour into a new corner of the world to learn about life; the western media pours right along, providing consistent drama, a great deal of facts and figures but only occasional accurate interpretation of the causes or consequences on the ground (I'm still waiting for the TV shots of a modern Lawrence of Arabia riding over the desert hills to Aqaba port... and screaming "stop those zippers for Iraq!"). A frustrated America/Britain & Hangers-on resorts to unilateral force to enforce the embargo against Iraq; and the protracted affair starts to generate the first signs of frustration and opposition in the West. We've been here before, haven't we? Vietnam?

The predictable consequences of the massive military build-up in the Gulf by America/Britain & Hangers-on have started to materialise, though with some unexpected twists. There is much Arab grassroots support for Iraq, because Iraq has been able to portray itself as confronting American/British & Hangers-on imperialism and militarism. This will increase as the embargo starts to hurt Iraqis, especially in terms of food and medicine.

Iraq has responded by using its resident foreigners as protection against an invasion. Guesseous stuff? You bet it is, but that's war, and Bush/Thatcher & Brood should have

thought through some of these implications before they resorted to Popeye diplomacy and sent in the fleet to rescue Olive Oil from the hands of the brutal Brutus of Baghdad. If you like war, then cheer on. If you don't, look for a better way.

The potential for a military catastrophe is still there. Though I do not believe that a war will break out, this could always happen by accident, by frustration on the part of Bush/Thatcher & Brood, or by intolerable pressures on the Iraqis. Such a military clash would be devastating, given the amount and nature of armaments in the area and the intensity of feelings on both sides.

Four parties are already paying a high price in economic and human terms: Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan and Palestine; the last two because of the sudden and severe drop in remittances and financial support coming into their economies from Kuwait and the Gulf. With time, the circle of suffering will expand to include other Arab states and the United States. Anger and suffering will flare. Faced with this situation, what can one do?

The first thing we should do, starting with the international media, and most particularly American and British television personnel, is to decide if this is an unscheduled documentary designed to increase one's audience ratings, or a sorry tale of power confronta-

tion in which the lives of hundreds of millions of people are threatened with suffering, hardship and death.

One can decide now whether our aim is to pump up the adrenalin and generate the excitement that comes with playing power poker with countries as the stake, or use our minds a bit more and try to focus on the possibility of toning down the militarism and rationally seeking means of resolving this conflict by addressing the key underlying causes and concerns.

The fact is that there were two if not three moments during the first days of the crisis when Jordanian and Arab mediation almost certainly could have secured an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait — before Iraq annexed Kuwait or threw out the Al Sabah family. The panic on the part of several key Arab leaders and their decision immediately to call in the American/British forces radically altered the situation for the worse; the presence of the western armada has now sent the conflict into a far more dangerous cycle of international confrontation, which has been further complicated by the American/British unilateral naval blockade and the Iraqi move to use its resident foreigners as a human shield. Such mindless escalation has to be stopped soon, in order to shift one's energies to seeking a diplomatic solution.

The resort to diplomacy should not be ruled out in favour of the kind of emotional

high and militaristic politics we are witnessing today. Iraq has already made two rather interesting offers to resolve the problem, though, predictably, both have been dismissed by America/Britain & Hangers-on. The fact that Iraq is proposing ideas, including ones which indicate the status of Kuwait can be resolved through inter-Arab efforts, seems to me a good thing, and a sign that Iraq does not look forward to another Vietnam or Afghanistan. It would be useful to see a proportionate response from the practitioners of Popeye Diplomacy — because it is probably a truism of recent history that this sort of massive military response, in an environment of emotional anti-Americanism throughout the Arab World, can only result in a catastrophe for the western troops and for Arab interests.

One wonders, therefore: what does America/Britain & Hangers-on want from this confrontation? Why did they send in the marines and the navy so quickly and so massively? Surely, the sovereignty of Kuwait and oil are not the full issue — because, a) the West has disregarded the fate of other states that have been made fully or partly un-sovereign, and, b) there is no doubt that the Arabs will continue to sell their oil to the West and the world.

The western reaction to Iraq is probably a reflection of the fact that the West does not want to see the emergence of

an Arab power that can bring Arab resources together in the service of pan-Arab aspirations; and certainly, the West does not want to see other Arabs questioning the legitimacy or the policies of the oil-rich Gulf states.

In short, Iraq has tapped pan-Arab sentiment and challenged the status quo which has prevailed in this region since the western imperialist powers drew the modern map of the Arab World in the early decades of this century. The Iraqis are saying: It is a flawed and debilitating map. Many other Arabs are responding to this message. Bush/Thatcher and Brood are scared out of their wits, and respond in the only manner they know how: shoot 'em up, or, at least, threaten to shoot 'em up, by parading your weapons and acting in the manner that a superpower is supposed to act on television.

The only problem is that this is not television. The Gulf is not Toontown, and no one of us is a cartoon character — regardless of the insistence of America/Britain & Hangers-on to see the world as one large fantasy stage in which they can substitute muscle-flexing and guns for their inability to deal rationally and fairly with other people.

The scale and speed of the western response and the nature of Arab support for Iraq suggest that what we have here is more than your usual Third World local conflict. This has turned into a struggle on a larger stage, in which Arab

states are being asked to show their true identity: are they respectable Arab nationalists, or disguised puppets of the West and members of the Toons family of cartoon characters?

The process of national restructuring in the Arab World has started, whether one likes it or not. It started in the early 1980s, as the oil boom decade faded away and we came to terms with our sad reality: failed or troubled countries, autocratic at home, and humiliated by the reality of Israel and its western backers. In the past five years, indigenous pressures have pushed some countries, such as Jordan, to seek salvation in national identity expressed through democratic institutions. Iraq has now speeded up the whole process of political transformation in the Arab World, and the old order is under great stress, especially in the oil-producing states but also in other key Arab states which instinctively look to America/Britain & Hangers-on for their salvation.

This process of pan-Arab challenge and transformation will go on, regardless of what happens in the crisis in the Gulf in the short term; consequently, the West would be well advised to appreciate what is happening throughout the Arab World, and the western media should do themselves and their people a service by trying to get down to the roots of the story, instead of pumping up the Toons machine. It's a great story, if someone takes the time to see it.

## Iraq moves foreigners

(Continued from page 1)

German, Italian or any other origin," he added.

Iraqi troops began rounding up some 13,000 Westerners still trapped in Kuwait and Iraq, but Baghdad said it was allowing Argentines and Indonesians to leave Kuwait and Iraq to thank their governments for not sending troops to the Gulf.

On Sunday it agreed to free some Swiss, Austrian, Finnish, Portuguese and Swedish nationals.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd described the Iraqi moves as "illegal and repulsive." Baghdad meanwhile told Iraqi both in Iraq and Kuwait to turn in foreigners to the authorities and warned that sheltering them would bring "the severest punishment."

"Hosting a foreigner in an Iraqi place of residence is considered a flagrant violation of the law, for which the severest punishment will be given," Baghdad Radio said.

No citizens of countries which support the United States will be allowed to leave Iraq, the Iraqi information minister said in an interview Monday.

Latif Nassif Jassas also "imported French and Europeans to do all they can to avoid World War III," the French television network TFI said.

A crew from TFI arrived in Baghdad early Monday and recorded the interview with Jassas, which was to be broadcast in France Monday night.

Jassas also said "if ever an American pilot is shot down by the Iraqi (forces), he will be immediately devoured," the network said. It did not specify what Jassas meant by devoured.

France, along with the U.S. and Britain, Monday rejected a proposal by Saddam that the thousands of foreigners held in Iraq and Kuwait would be released if foreign troops withdrew from Saudi Arabia.

"It seems we're getting a daily seminar of Iraqi ridicule these days," White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

In a tough-sounding speech, Bush told Americans that solving the Gulf crisis will require sacrifices on their part.

He called it "a crisis that will require American planning, patience, and yes, personal sacrifice, but a sacrifice that we must and will meet if we are to stop aggression, help our friends and defend our own interests in the peace and stability of countries around the globe."

Bush recalled the June 1944 Normandy invasion during World War II as well as other notable battles of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

"One should not underestimate those that threaten peace, but as even greater mistakes would be to underestimate our commitment to our friends when our friends are in peril, or our commitment to international order when that too is in peril," Bush said.

"America will not be intimidated and when some ask, where does America stand? Our answer is American stands where it has always stood: Against those who would replace the rule of law," he said.

Bush quoted from supreme allied commander Dwight D. Eisenhower's speech on the eve of the Normandy invasion in which he called for God's blessing "in this great and mighty undertaking."

The implicitly compared the threat posed by Saddam to that of Hitler. "Half a century ago the world had the chance to stop a ruthless aggressor and missed it. I pledge to you we will not make that mistake again," Bush said.

He said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a "ruthless assault on the very essence of international order and civilized ideals. And now, in a further offence against international law, Iraq has imposed restrictions on innocent civilians from many countries. This is unacceptable."

"In moving foreign citizens against their will, you are violating the norms of your own religion. You are going against the age-old Arab tradition of showing kindness and hospitality to visitors. And so my message is, release all foreigners now. Give them the right to come and go as they wish," he said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze appealed in a Monday meeting with an Iraqi deputy prime minister for the release of all foreigners caught up in the Gulf crisis.

TASS said that in a three-hour session with Saddam Hussein, Shevardnadze "expressed satisfaction" that Soviets in Iraq and Kuwait were allowed to leave for their homeland.

"Shevardnadze called on (Iraq) to take a similar decision in relation to citizens of other states," TASS said.

In other developments: — The White House said U.S. warships were still "shadowing" two Iraqi tankers, which ignored warning shots fired by the U.S. vessels Saturday.

U.S. warships off the United Arab Emirates were challenging by radio practically every commercial ship coursing up and down the Gulf, shipping executives reported Monday.

Two Dutch navy frigates were leaving Monday for the Gulf to join the multinational force arrayed against Iraq. The air defence frigate White De Witt had the standard frigate Huis de Vlucht to take two weeks to reach the region.

Greece also said it would send a frigate. — The U.S. broadcasting network CBS said from Baghdad that 35 Americans fled to the U.S. embassy to prevent them from being added to U.S. citizens dispersed to possible military targets around Iraq.

— The State Department warned Americans to defer all non-essential travel to Yemen, citing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and anti-American demonstrations in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen. Non-essential embassy personnel and dependents were ordered to leave.

— Saudi Arabian merchants are importing gas masks which will be made available to everyone as soon as possible in the event of a chemical weapons attack by Iraq, the Saudi newspaper Okaz reported.

— Syria warned Iraq that taking Western hostages heightened the risk of war in the Gulf as President Hafez Al Assad met Saudi Arabia's foreign minister and other Arab envoys to discuss the growing crisis.

Damascus Radio condemned Baghdad's detention of thousands of Western hostages in Kuwait and Iraq which it said would give the Western forces in the Gulf a pretext to intervene militarily.

## LETTERS

### An act of war

To the Editor:

THERE is no doubt that the U.S.-led Western blockade on Iraq is an act of war by all standards; and although economic sanctions are formally backed by the United Nations, they are sanctioned by many countries that harbour enmity towards the Arabs or condone America's actions in the Gulf.

Undoubtedly, this act of war is bound to invite a retaliatory action from Iraq which has now decided to "host" foreign nationals residing in Kuwait and Iraq, offering them as much food and convenience as is available to the Iraqi men, women and children. It is by no means possible to start a war and remain insulated against its fire; and should hostilities break out, as Iraq against Iraq will have to take their share of the consequences.

The U.S. had hoped to wage what it might have thought to be a "clean" war on Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people, with its own nationals and interests escaping unscathed. But the Iraqi move now seems to have disrupted Washington's plans and upset its way of thinking.

We are indeed concerned about civilians caught up in conflict anywhere in the world, and it is the world community's efforts should also be directed to safeguarding the lives and interests of civilians on both sides of the fence.

For this reason, and given the U.S. declared keenness on protecting the lives of its nationals, one would naturally expect to see Washington taking extra care from now on to ensure the continued flow of large amounts of food and medical supplies to meet the needs of its nationals in Iraq, on par with Iraqi citizens.

N. Abd. Rahim  
 P.O. Box 921346  
 Amman

إلى من الجمل



## 'The more the merrier'

By Janet Snyder  
Reuter

**ZUUNMOD, Mongolia** — While China pleads with its teeming millions to have just one child, across the border in sparsely populated Mongolia it's the more the merrier.

Orsoo, a 50-year-old Mongolian mother of 10 children, certainly thinks so. She and her husband were recently given a government loan to build a new home as a reward for having a large family.

A four-room concrete bungalow, it will supplement the family's three "ger", or felt tents.

Six small grandchildren also live with Orsoo and her 54-year-old husband Humbar in Zuunmod, a small town in the steppes just south of the capital Ulan Bator.

Twelve years ago the Mongolian government cited Orsoo, a garbage truck driver, as a "first class hero mother." The honour is accorded to women who have given birth to eight or more children.

Along with a red star medal, she received 200 tugriks (about \$20). Mongolia, one of the world's poorest nations, has an annual per capita gross national product of about \$40.

Families of eight children or more get a princely 3,000 tugriks (\$300) a year in government subsidies, Orsoo said.

Orsoo's main tent, adorned with yellow lacquer lattice-work, had a refrigerator and a sink, rare in Mongolian homes.

Ulan Bator's encouragement of large families contrasts with the strict population control policy of its giant southern neighbour China.

China penalises couples who have more than the officially prescribed number of children — generally one — and ordains when couples may start a family.

Mongolia's communist rulers until recently banned all forms of birth control. Activists such as prominent paediatrician and public health official Munkhuu have pushed the authorities in the past year to legalise contraceptives, saying that Mongolian women are at risk because they have too many babies to quickly.

Legalisation of contraception is one of the many reforms Mongolia has instituted since March after mass demonstrations forced the communists to renounce their sole monopoly on power.

"Perestroika helped speed up this change in policy," Munkhuu said, using the catchword adopted by Soviet reformists for

political change.

But official approval of large families remains unchanged. "Our birth control policy was and is one of encouraging population growth, because our population is so small."

Mongolia, a vast country the size of Western Europe, has a population of only two million. Its birth rate is high at 36 births per 1,000 people, Munkhuu noted.

The average Mongolian family has at least five children.

"Children are the flowers of our life," said Hero mother Orsoo, expressing a common Mongolian sentiment. "They are our future."

But she was unwilling to insist that her daughters produce large families. "That's their problem," she said.

Orsoo and her driving instructor husband between them bring home salaries of about 600 tugriks a month (\$60). She said her large family was not a financial burden.

"The more children, the more prosperity," she explained as she cuddled a three-week-old granddaughter bundled up in swaddling clothes. The family is well-to-do by the standards of this nation of herdsmen, with 30 sheep, 10 cows, 10 chickens and a motor-cycle with a sidecar.

But as much as the Mongolians profess to love children, "There were lots of unwanted pregnancies and lots of illegal abortions, as you would expect," said a Mongolian journalist.

"But very few women abandoned their children to adoption or orphanages — that's not the Mongolian way."

One Mongolian office worker said his wife had had eight abortions before they became legal. "What are you going to do? We couldn't afford to have that many kids."

Illegitimacy is not in the Mongolian lexicon. "Children are children. Whoever the father is, does not make a difference," said a mother of four.

Birth control methods such as the pill, the Intra-Uterine Device (IUD) and condoms are virtually impossible to obtain, according to several Ulan Bator residents.

Health official Munkhuu said the United Nations Population Fund recently donated 25,000 copper-T IUDs to Mongolia, but priority was given to women whose health would be endangered by pregnancy.

"You can only get these things through the black market by paying hard currency," said one woman.

## Islamic Salvation Front transforms Algeria towns

By Philip Shehadi  
Reuter

**ALGIERS** — Amid the crumbling Turkish-era houses of the Casbah, a stairwell that once served as garbage dump is now so clean that neighbourhood youths sit late into the night chatting on its steps.

Since Muslim fundamentalist took over the Casbah and hundreds of town councils across Algeria in June elections, clean streets and clean government have been watchwords of their "Islamic communes."

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is quietly transforming the way Algeria's towns and cities have been run since independence in 1962.

Vowing open and corruption-free rule, they are striving to win the hearts and minds of Algerian voters who could bring the FIS to power in general elections next year.

In the Casbah and Bab El Oued, low-income FIS strongholds, new mayors are rekindling civic pride crushed by 28 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN).

"People have confidence in us. Those I meet are very badly housed, but they feel the FIS is there to solve their problems," said Achour Djadouf, Bab El Oued's affable 40-year-old mayor.

Djadouf works 18-hour days capped by a late-night tour of his teeming inner-city district that has become synonymous with social protest in Algeria.

October 1988 youth riots that launched the country on the road to multi-party democracy broke out in Bab El Oued where the FIS won some 80 per cent of the vote in the June 12 elections.

"Before, under the FLN, you would cross the mayor in the street and he would not even look at you. The new people talk to us

and invite us to their homes," said Saad, a contractor.

Djadouf says he receives an average of 300 people a week. Like other FIS mayors, he took a special oath of office that binds him, among other things, "never to privilege someone for his wealth or ties of friendship and family."

The moral stature of Islam was a crucial factor in the rise of the FIS among the crisis-hit population that has long linked its rulers with corruption and favouritism. Fundamentalist mayors hit the headlines last month with scattered attempts to ban the wearing of shorts, shut down bars and brothels and separate men and women on the beach.

Only partially implemented, they caused an outcry from Algerian liberals and across the Mediterranean in France, which views anxiously the Islamic experiments of its former colony.

But while the FIS shows every intention of eventually applying its moral agenda derived from Islamic Sharia law, priorities now appear to lie in less controversial but no less profound reforms of municipal life.

The FIS has set up "neighbourhood committees" to monitor local problems and sound out solutions. Each is represented on a municipal *Majlis Al Shoura*, a consultative assembly cited in the holy Koran.

The assemblies, closely linked to mosques and including prominent imams, can adjudicate informally in disputes over land, housing and personal wealth.

Some Algerians have expressed alarm at the creation of parallel institutions with vague extra-legal powers. But the FIS says they will only make government more responsive.

Mosque appeals have mobilised street sweepers in the Casbah and mechanics in Bab El Oued where they repaired free of charge four garbage trucks left incapacitated by the previous

council. Djadouf is studying the possibility of hiring a private firm to take over garbage collection — an unprecedented break with Algeria's past socialist ideology.

To reduce youth unemployment, estimated nation-wide at nearly 30 per cent, the council is asking merchants to take on extra hands. It is studying a new municipal transport service and ways to revive local industries.

But the FIS agenda in Bab El Oued also includes action on alcohol abuse, harassment of women and clandestine brothels.

Djadouf said he plans to petition the ministry of education to ban co-education classrooms on the grounds that mixing the sexes encourages immoral conduct.

"A morals police has become imperative. Citizens are demanding it," said Djadouf, calling for the revival of a now-defunct municipal police to fill this role.

Alcohol is forbidden by Islam but Djadouf plans to leave bars alone for the moment. "For the time being we will leave the bars up to citizens. They will have to tell us that such and such a bar is annoying them."

While the FIS appears to be enjoying something of a honeymoon, it is also aware of the enormous difficulty solving at local level nation-wide crises facing its constituents.

Demonstrations over lack of water erupted earlier this month in the coastal city of Jijel, the first major protest in a FIS municipality.

And Djadouf and other mayors say some provincial governors or walis, appointed by President Chadli Benjedid, are obstructing their projects.

Most residents of the Islamic communes appear to be willing to give the FIS time. "We'll give them a few years, and if there is no real improvement we'll get rid of them like we did the FLN," said a 65-year-old mother of five in the Casbah.



The market place at Bab El Oued

## East Germans snapping up second-hand cars in West

By Mao Nakanishi  
Reuter

**HAMBURG, West Germany** — Tens of thousands of East Germans have cast their economic worries to the wind over the past few weeks, heading West not to live, but to buy second-hand cars with their first West German marks.

East Germany's economy is near collapse, but many of the nation's car-starved citizens say they want "new" wheels now, not in five years time when the country has recovered from its abrupt

lurch into capitalism.

Prices have skyrocketed and the supply of used cars has nearly dried up in West Germany as a result of the East Germans' scramble to buy. The cheaper new models are also in short supply.

"Where are almost no second-hand cars left," said Hinrich Petersen, a car dealer in Hamburg, only 60 kilometres away from the now non-existent border with East Germany. "If there are any, the cars are much too expensive."

Earlier this month, West Ger-

many's ZKD motor industry association estimated some 500,000 used West German cars would find their way to East Germany by the end of this year and to 1.3 million by 1992.

Neither 40 years of Communist rule nor up to 20-year waiting lists for the spluttering two-stroke Trabant cars dampened East German enthusiasm for the automobile. Soaring prices and the threat of imminent unemployment have done little to discourage demand.

Cars that sold for 5,000 German marks (just over \$3,000) six

months ago now cost 20 per cent more. Prices for the most popular models have risen up to 100 per cent.

"It's crazy... all small cars, (new and old) are going to the East," said Michael Sombetzki, a film producer in Hamburg, who has been looking for an inexpensive car for a friend. He said one dealer had said he could not deliver a new car before November.

"But the second-hand dealers also have nothing reasonable to offer any more. I've been ringing several second-hand car dealers

up almost every day over the last few weeks."

In Nettekfeld in Hamburg, a line of once crammed car show-grounds look empty and abandoned. Some polished luxury cars — priced beyond the reach of most people — are scattered in the huge spaces.

"Once in their life, people (in East Germany) want to have driven a car," said Frank, a computer programmer from an East German village near Aschersleben, about 350 kilometres east of Hamburg. He declined to give his family name.

Frank, now working in Hamburg, hopes to replace his 25-year-old Trabant, which he acquired two years ago after 14 years of waiting, with a faster car.

But he added: "For me, cars do not have the top priority. I've got to find a place to live first."

The weekly West German newspaper Die Zeit recently reported the case of a plumber from Treptow, East Germany, who had no driver's licence but had just bought a brand new Nissan in West Berlin.

## Cheney enlists support

(Continued from page 1)

attack. Previously, Arab contributors were known to be Egypt, Morocco and Syria.

An Arab summit conference in Cairo on Aug. 10 authorised the dispatch of a joint force to Saudi Arabia. The size and quality of the force showed that it is by no means a potent combat machine but merely demonstrates political support and provides a convenient cover for a massive U.S. military presence.

Middle East News Agency quoted the Egyptian force's commander, Mohammed Ali Bilal, as saying: "The arrival of units from the Egyptian armed forces to bolster the defence capabilities of Saudi Arabia has been completed."

"If Saudi Arabia requests more Egyptian troops, these will be duly dispatched. We are ready for all sacrifices in the defence of Saudi Arabia because, in so doing, we are defending Arabism."

Bilal did not give the size of the Egyptian contingent. President Hosni Mubarak said last Friday it would not exceed 2,000 men, but military sources estimate it at twice that number.

The agency gave no details on the Omani and Moroccan units. Reports from Morocco last week said it had sent 1,200 soldiers to Saudi Arabia.

The Egyptian agency's report did not say whether the Moroccan units that arrived in the eastern zone were part of or in addition to last week's group. Syria also is said to have dispatched a few officers to Saudi Arabia.

Another U.S. defence official confirmed that the Bush administration planned to press ahead with the sale of additional F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia.

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## S. Arabia fails to win oil states support

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia has failed to win the support of enough OPEC members to convene a special meeting of the group to discuss the effect of the Gulf crisis on world oil supplies.

The official OPEC news agency, monitored in London, said Monday Saudi Arabia had not received the backing of a simple majority of seven in the 13-nation group for such a meeting to be held.

Saudi Arabia wanted OPEC to discuss raising production to meet

the shortfall of more than four million barrels per day (b/d) caused by an international embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nasser said at the weekend that the kingdom would increase its output soon unless OPEC acted quickly to make good the shortfall.

But several OPEC states have balked at raising production because of high Western stocks and firm prices on world markets,

which have marked up prices by some 40 per cent since the crisis broke with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Indonesia, a traditional moderate, proposed Monday that two sub-committees of OPEC meet to examine supply and demand before thinking about a full meeting.

Iran, which backs higher world oil prices, has rejected pressure for a special meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

## Tokyo stocks plunge again

TOKYO (AP) — Stock prices fell in Tokyo Monday as tension deepened in the Middle East, while the U.S. dollar inched up against the Japanese yen.

The dollar closed at 147.47 yen, up 0.12 yen from last Friday's finish. It opened at 147.75 yen and ranged between 147.30 yen and 147.77 yen.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues moved higher in the morning but then declined in the afternoon session, closing at 26,490.47, down 296.25 points or 1.11 per cent from Friday's close. The index shed 762.72 points Friday.

Dealers said trading was thin, with many participants staying on the sidelines.

"Share prices moved up at one point in thin trading at late morning, helped by index-linked buying, but then plummeted with a wait-and-see mood prevailing," said Yoshio Inoue of Nomura Securities.

"The general consensus is that stock prices have nearly hit bottom and they will quickly bounce back if the Middle East situation improves," Inoue said.

The dollar, which often rises in times of international crisis, has now gained 0.82 yen in Tokyo since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

"Despite the structural weakness of the U.S. economy, the dollar will remain relatively strong against the yen because of the ongoing tension in the Middle East," said Kohei Kuroda of Fuji Bank.

## ICI sets up subsidiary in Poland

WARSAW (R) — British chemicals giant Imperial Chemical Industries PLC (ICI) said Monday it was setting up a wholly-owned subsidiary in Poland, its first in Eastern Europe.

ICI says it is the first major international firm to form a 100 per cent owned company in Poland, where the Solidarity-led government is wooing foreign investors as it tries to build a Western-style free market economy. Peter Schellink, director of ICI Poland Ltd, said it would provide a base for the whole group to explore opportunities here, especially for its agrochemicals and paints businesses. It would also improve ICI's distribution network. "It gives us a lot more flexibility to operate in the market," he told Reuters.

## Threat of war overshadows Gulf Arab banking operations

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab banks faced a major test of confidence Monday as financial panic subsided but the threat of war overshadowed the search for badly-needed funds, senior bankers said.

Domestic markets were in turmoil following the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2 but have since calmed.

"Peak depositor withdrawals were last Thursday. There has been no enormous drawdown since," said one Saudi banker.

But the shadow of war in the region, and confusion over Kuwait's frozen assets, is still scaring many overseas banks away from doing their normal level of business with the affected Gulf Arab institutions, they say.

"There are some banks in deep trouble out there," said a treasury manager at a bank in Bahrain, which has been particularly badly affected by the loss of

confidence in the region.

The Gulf institutions tend to look to Europe as the first major counterparties of the day, meaning those banks with which they normally do their main foreign exchange business.

With the depositor panic seemingly gone, more banks are looking for funds. "Our main concern still is to protect our liquidity but we are making more calls," said another Saudi-based banker.

Until now, banks' main concern has been to preserve the funds they have which can be readily turned into cash, and not to take any speculative currency positions in such a nervous market.

Some banks, many in Bahrain, were hard hit when on Aug. 5 the U.S. Treasury put them on a danger list for having major Kuwait connections and many

overseas banks which normally did business with them suddenly stopped answering the phones.

The treasury has since lifted its warning on several of these institutions.

Banks lifted from the Treasury list of blocked institutions are Arab Banking Corp., its subsidiary Banco Atlantico, Bahrain Middle East Bank, Gulf International Bank, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Dao Heng Bank, Kuwait French Bank, Swiss Kuwaiti Bank, UBAF American Bank, and United Bank of Kuwait.

"We will find out if we have any more friends today," said a dealer at one of the de-restricted banks.

Bahrain's main problem has been due to its lack of a large domestic depositor base to back up its banking system.

To protect Bahrain banks' liquidity, the Bahrain Monetary

Authority took the unusual step of advising its banks not to allow depositors to break into time deposits before maturity.

Banks in Saudi Arabia have been badly hit but have suffered less due to their traditionally high liquidity, and the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's (SAMA) solid support after its initial slow start to reassure banks.

To increase banks access to funds if necessary, SAMA raised the amount of banks' government bond holdings which they could cash in with the central bank for a fixed period through its repurchase facility. The bonds are swapped for funds.

Banks spoken to by Reuters Monday said they had not heard of any Saudi banks which had had to take up the SAMA offer. "But it's a reassuring backstop," said one.

## De Mello reshapes Brazil

Over the years, Brazil was plagued by hyperinflation, huge budget deficit and continuous currency depreciation. The financial and economic chaos was so deep that Brazil's hard currency reserves sank to a dangerous level and the country had to stop repayment on its \$100 billion debt. Brazil's new president, who took power in March, was quick in applying a shock treatment to remedy the country's economic ills. Within the span of 24 hours after his inauguration, he stunned Brazilians with stringent measures unprecedented in any part of the world. Yet his dramatic actions did not get enough attention and capture minds as they should have. In the following, which is the first in a two-part article, Jordan Times's reporter Marwan Haddad reviews the measures and their impact on a country whose president is determined to put it on the road to becoming a member of the developed world.

AMMAN — Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello envisions a modern developed Brazil. However, unlike most dreamers in this world, De Mello has the power and the plan to make his vision a reality.

De Mello has introduced what is probably the most radical and rigid economic programme ever to be enforced in the history of Brazil. His new government adopted this programme on March 16, 1990, only one day after its inauguration, in the hopes that such a programme would pull this Latin American country out of its economic slump.

In Time's July 30 interview, De Mello declared: "We had to decide whether once and for all we would adopt a stance that would clearly show Brazil's desire to become a member of the First World."

In Time's article, De Mello was described as "brilliant" and a "madman". And was compared to both Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Benito Mussolini. Crazy or sane, De Mello is simply a man with a mission: to turn Brazil into a First World country.

During the last month before De Mello's new government took power, the levels of inflation were extraordinary high and Brazil's economic development had

stagnated. De Mello introduced his new Brazil plan in an attempt "to fight against the inflationary process, to stimulate the technological modernisation, entrepreneurial competition, and the reinstatement of the country into the international economy," according to the central bank of Brazil in its publication on the Brazilian economic programme.

The plan incorporates reform in three different areas: Monetary, fiscal, and administrative. De Mello's new monetary policy aims to cripple the soaring inflation rates. His first steps were 1) to raise the interest rates (a basic technique taught in any first level economics course — if interest rates increase, consumption will decrease, lowering prices) and 2) to create a new national currency (the idea behind this is a little more complicated).

De Mello intends to control the liquidity level of the Brazilian economy. Once De Mello has a tight grip on the money supply, he can control consumer demand. When ready cash is not available to consumers, consumption decreases, pushing down prices. By creating a new national currency and giving the central bank control of liquidity, De Mello can keep track of all currency in use.

He has applied stringent rules for changing the cruzeiros novos to cruzeiros. All financial assets were converted into cruzeiros according to the one to one parity but only up to shockingly low limits.

For example, the amount in demand deposits and saving accounts above about \$1,200 remained in the old currency, and only 20% of the redemption on time deposits, exchange bills, and debentures was changed into cruzeiros. The amounts that remained in cruzeiros novos will be converted into cruzeiros with the appropriate adjustment in twelve monthly installments beginning Sept. 16, 1991.

De Mello thus froze for eighteen months about \$85 billion, which resulted in reducing the inflation rate from 73 per cent to a mere 3.29 per cent in a matter of several months. Time sources indicate.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Monday, August 20, 1990 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	125.2	126.6
U.S. dollar	656.0	660.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.0	447.7
Pound Sterling	1257.8	1265.3	Dutch guilder	373.5	375.7
Deutsche mark	420.8	423.3	Swedish crown	114.2	114.9
Swiss franc	508.2	511.2	Italian lira (for 100)	57.1	57.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	205.7	206.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.9160/70	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1435/45	Canadian dollar	
	1.5590/95	Deutsche mark	
	1.7565/75	Dutch guilder	
	1.2935/45	Swiss franc	
	32.06/11	Belgian franc	
	5.2350/2400	French franc	
	1150/1151	Italian lire	
	146.65/75	Japanese yen	
	5.7470/7520	Swedish crown	
	6.0500/50	Norwegian crown	
	5.9685/9735	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	410.50/411.00	U.S. dollars	

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## Zambia hikes fuel prices

LUSAKA (R) — Zambia raised petrol and diesel fuel prices by almost 50 per cent Monday, citing difficulties in obtaining supplies as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Motorists in Lusaka have queued at filling stations daily from dawn for the past three weeks in anticipation of shortages, while, in the southern city of Livingstone, some have crossed the Victoria Falls bridge to buy petrol in Zimbabwe.

President Kenneth Kaunda said last week that Zambia could face a major fuel crisis which could cripple industry. Refined premium petrol will now cost 17.10 kwacha (54 cents) a litre, from 11.50 kwacha (36 cents) before, the state-owned Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation (ZIMCO), the country's fuel importer, said in a statement Monday.

The price for regular petrol has risen from 9.82 kwacha (30 cents) to 14.60 kwacha (45 cents) a litre, while diesel has gone up to 10 kwacha (31 cents) a litre, from 6.73 kwacha (21 cents) previously, it added.

The increases were a uniform 48.7 per cent. "The price adjustments are to a large measure dictated by the very volatile situation on the international oil market resulting from the current Middle East crisis," ZIMCO said.

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Dured Lahham  
Madeline Tabar  
in  
**KAFROUN**  
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45  
**ONCE BITTEN**  
5:15 only

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144  
**TWO MOON JUNCTION**  
Performances: 3:45, 6:15, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571  
**POLICE ACADEMY 6**  
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238  
**POLICE ACADEMY 6**  
Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45



## New tribal fighting flares in S. Africa; death toll hits 331

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — New tribal fighting flared Monday when raiding Zulus armed with assault rifles shot Xhosa sleeping in a hostel as the death toll from a week of clashes rose to 331, police said.

Police and witnesses said Zulus armed with AK-47 rifles raided a Xhosa hostel early Monday in Kwa-thema township. At least 21 people were killed, many of them Xhosa shot in their beds, they said.

Police in armoured vehicles moved in after dawn to restore order and protect residents. Enraged Xhosa set fire to a hostel used by Zulus before being driven off.

Fighting also flared in Kagiso township where three people were killed late Sunday when a mob went on a rampage, police said. The tribal affiliations of the dead were not known, they said.

Police Monday raised the death toll for the fighting from the past week to 331 dead with hundreds more injured. Police said they were finding the bodies of dozens of people killed in weekend fighting.

"We just keep finding bodies. They're everywhere," said a police spokesman.

The new fighting came after Winnie Mandela warned the African National Congress (ANC) may be forced to resume its armed struggle to protect its supporters.

The wife of ANC leader Nelson Mandela charged the government was aiding the Zulu Inkatha Movement in fighting against Xhosa, the independent South African Press Association reported.

"The government is working hand in hand with Inkatha," the news agency quoted her as saying Sunday at the opening of an ANC office in Soweto.

Besides the fighting in Kwa-thema, police reported calm Monday in most black townships around Johannesburg. Heavily armed police and army troops in armoured vehicles roamed the areas to prevent new clashes and fired tear gas at looters.

Roaming bands of looters continued to pillage hostels abandoned by Zulu migrant workers in Tokoza and other townships. People carted away refrigerators, stoves and anything else they could find.

Johannesburg newspapers reported Monday there had been five "necklace" killings Sunday in Soweto when youths put tyres around victims' necks and set them on fire.

The ANC agreed earlier this month to suspend its armed struggle against the white government to clear the way for talks on sharing political power with the black majority. Mrs. Mandela publicly questioned the ANC's decision after it was announced.

ANC leader Walter Sisulu ruled out peace talks between Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthe, saying it would be a capitulation.

"That means Inkatha launches a war in order to bring us to our knees. For that type of thing we are not prepared," he said in a weekend television interview.

Mrs. Mandela and Sisulu called for the removal of migrant worker hostels from the townships. The hostels house thousands of Zulu workers from Natal.

The fighting appears to be

mostly a tribal conflict with a long history, but it also has political overtones. Nelson Mandela and many other leaders of the African National Congress, the largest opposition movement, are Xhosa.

Both the ANC and Inkatha oppose apartheid, the system of racial segregation that allows 5 million whites to maintain political and economic control over 30 million blacks. But the two groups differ over tactics and plans for a future South Africa.

In a separate development, the ANC condemned President F.W. de Klerk's decision to suspend immunity from prosecution granted to three key ANC negotiators.

The three, all members of the South African Communist Party as well as the ANC, were not listed in a government notice Friday renewing the temporary immunity granted to ANC leaders involved in exploratory talks with de Klerk.

"This is a silly thing to do. We find it very surprising that the government should pick on these three men," ANC spokesman Sakkie Macozoma said Monday.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Elsa Jones confirmed that ANC chief of staff Chris Hani, head of the movement's military wing, was no longer guaranteed immunity from prosecution for crimes committed during the 30-year ANC war against white rule.

She said de Klerk suspended the immunity granted to Sathyanathan (Mac) Maharaj and Ronnie Kasrils, senior members of the Communist Party wing in the ANC.

They were among ANC leaders allowed to return from exile after

de Klerk legalised the movement and its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (spear of the nation), in February.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, freed from prison a week after the movement was legalised, has since begun a series of exploratory talks with the government on setting up formal negotiations about an end to white domination in South Africa.

Mandela and de Klerk agreed earlier this month that they had cleared all the obstacles to formal negotiations on a settlement between whites and the five-to-one black majority.

Among the issues resolved were an agreement on the safe return of ANC exiles and the release of political prisoners.

Maharaj is being detained without charge over police allegations that Umkhonto we Sizwe plans to seize power if the talks fail. Kasrils has been linked to the same accusations.

Sakkie Macozoma said Hani was in the nominally independent black tribal homeland Transkei, regarded by Pretoria as a foreign country.

He said it was not clear whether Hani would be able to return to the movement's exile headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, without risking arrest.

"They (the government) are obviously still gunning for these three individuals. I would have thought they would know that this would cause a very delicate situation," he said.

Macozoma declined to comment further until ANC leaders in Johannesburg had had a chance to discuss the development.

## Ontario Indians agree to end rail blockade

LONGLAC, Ontario (AP) — Indian leaders Sunday agreed to end a blockade of Canada's national rail line in northern Ontario, but other rail lines remained blocked by Indian bands pressing land claims, police said.

After meeting with police, Indians from the Long Lake Band dismantled their blockade about 290 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay on Lake Superior.

The four-day protest had blocked east-west trains on Canadian National Rail Lines, the nation's main transcontinental rail link, for almost a week.

But Indians from the Pic Mobert Band continued to block Canadian Pacific Rail tracks near White River, Ontario.

The Indian bands have been blocking the rail lines to call attention to their land claims and demands for meetings with federal Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon.

They are also expressing support for Mohawk Indians in Quebec who have been engaged in an armed standoff with army troops and authorities in another land dispute.

Meanwhile, in British Columbia, the Seton-Portage Indian Band continued to block the BC rail link between Vancouver and Prince George, defying a court injunction to clear the tracks.

Those Indians set up the blockade Friday because they were upset with the response by British Columbia officials to their land claim proposals.

## Bulgarians favour opposition, opinion poll shows

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's main opposition party has overtaken the ruling Socialists in an opinion poll for the first time since free elections last June, the weekly newspaper Poglead said Monday.

It reported the poll by an independent research institute as showing 57 per cent of Bulgarians surveyed backed the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) against 47 per cent for the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP).

The BSP, founded by reformed Communists, won 53 per cent of votes in Bulgaria's first free elections for more than four decades last June to obtain 211 seats in the new 400-seat parliament. The UDF won 144 seats with 38 per cent of votes.

The country has since plunged into an economic crisis and the UDF has refused to join the Socialists in a coalition cabinet under Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov.

The BSP was more popular than the UDF only in villages and among people aged over 60, Poglead said.

## Soviet plane hijackers surrender in Pakistan

KARACHI (AP) — Eleven prisoners from a Siberian labour camp overpowered their guards and hijacked a Soviet jetliner to Pakistan where they surrendered Monday after landing, airport officials said.

All 29 passengers and nine crew members aboard the Aeroflot Tupolev 145 left the plane safely, the officials said.

The hijackers, who according to Soviet news reports were armed with machine guns, pistols and homemade explosives, surrendered to Pakistani army officers at about 2:45 p.m. (0945 GMT). That was less than two hours after the jetliner was allowed to land at Karachi International Airport after nearly running out of fuel, the officials said.

Details of the negotiations were not immediately disclosed, and authorities did not say whether the hijackers would be turned over to Soviet authorities.

Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Ivan Shilov said in Moscow that an investigation will be conducted into how the convicts managed to commandeer the plane. Soviet officials said the guards had broken convict escorting rules, but did not elaborate.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported. The plane initially was denied permission to land, but airport officials changed their order when the plane had only five to 15 minutes of fuel left, said aviation sources who insisted on anonymity.

The airliner circled this port city on the Arabian sea for nearly an hour, then touched down and taxied to an isolated section of the sprawling complex, where it was surrounded by dozens of heavily armed security forces.

The hijackers forced the aircraft to fly to Karachi from Tashkent in Central Asia after negotiating through the night on their demands to be flown abroad. They had intended to fly to New Delhi, India, before running low on fuel, officials said.

Soviet authorities said the incident began Sunday when 15 prisoners on the Aeroflot flight disarmed their guards and took over the plane, which was bound from Narynny, 5,000 kilometres east of Moscow, to the nearby city of Yakutsk in eastern Siberia.

The escapees were armed with sawed-off guns and homemade explosives, and they threatened

to blow up the plane, the independent Soviet News Agency Interfax said. TASS said they carried at least four machine guns and three pistols and wore seven bulletproof vests.

The prisoners forced the plane to return to Narynny, where their labour camp was located, officials said. Six prisoners decided to leave the plane, but two more joined the hijackers, said Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman Yuri I. Arshenovsky.

TASS said the six convicts who left the plane in Siberia were ordered to do so by the other prisoners.

The hijackers allowed the 41 women and children among the remaining 70 passengers to leave the airliner in Narynny, Arshenovsky said.

Then they flew west to Krasnoyarsk in Siberia, where authorities negotiated with them for two hours and allowed them to refuel. The plane flew to Tashkent in Soviet Uzbekistan, and the Yakutsk crew was replaced with a fresh one, the news agency said.

Negotiations continued through the night and the plane was allowed to refuel and leave for Pakistan after the hijackers promised to free the hostages on arrival, Interfax said.

There have been at least 13 attempts to hijack Soviet aircraft since late May — mostly by Soviet teenagers or young men who said they wanted to live in Western countries. That compares with about 70 attempts in the 57-year history of the Aeroflot state airline.

At least six made it out of the country, but all were arrested. Soviet media have emphasised the fact that Western countries have been returning the hijackers to the Soviet Union to face charges.

Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Mikhail Timofeyev was quoted by the government newspaper Izvestia as saying the hijackers were motivated by increasing crime in general, contempt for Soviet laws and the "selfish mentality that one was at liberty to do whatever he wished."

Hijacking carries a penalty of five to 20 years in jail in the Soviet Union.

Millions of Soviets have travelled abroad in the past two years as their government has eased restrictions. Tens of thousands have emigrated permanently.

## E. German aide resigns after SPD quits coalition

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's top diplomat resigned Monday after his political party bolted from the broad governing coalition formed to lead the nation to unity with West Germany.

The Social Democrats, the second-largest party in parliament, voted Sunday to leave the government and vowed to speed the process of German unity.

The party said it would seek a vote in parliament Wednesday to advance the date for German unification to mid-September.

"There is hardly another alternative," said Social Democrat Deputy Chairman Karl-Heinz Kahlisch.

Pressure has been building in East Germany to unify quickly with West Germany so that the richer nation can deal more directly with the former Communist country's difficult transition to the free market.

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## Movement seeks to recover Marcos accounts

MANILA (AP) — A legislator Monday launched a movement to retrieve millions of dollars allegedly stolen by former President Ferdinand Marcos and deposited in Switzerland.

Sen. Agapito Aquino, brother-in-law of President Corason Aquino, said he formed the "Swiss watch" organisation to pressure Swiss authorities to return Marcos' "ill-gotten wealth" because the government had failed to do so through litigation.

"The (legal) strategy fails to consider the political and moral dimensions of the issue," Aquino said. "This is one battle that cannot be won exclusively in the courts of justice, whether here or abroad."

A statement by the movement cited last month's acquittal by a federal jury in New York of Marcos' widow. She was charged with racketeering for allegedly helping Marcos loot public funds and buying \$200 million worth of real estate, jewelry and art in the United States.

The Aquino government accuses Marcos of stealing up to \$10 billion from the national treasury during his 20-year rule.

Aquino said the Swiss Ministry of Justice has disclosed that Marcos kept at least \$500 million in various Swiss accounts.

Swiss accounts suspected of being controlled by Marcos were frozen after Marcos was toppled in a popular revolt in February 1986. The Aquino government claims that the Philippines owns the accounts, but Swiss courts have yet to rule on the issue.

## U.N. offers to propose accord on military to help Salvadorean talks

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — A U.N. mediator in Salvadoran peace talks has offered to propose an accord on the army's future in an effort to budge stalled negotiations.

Government and rebel negotiators exchanged harsh words over the military's role in human rights violations, the key point in the talks aimed at ending the 10-year-long civil war.

"If both sides ask the U.N. to present a proposal about the conflict issue of the armed forces, we would do it," U.N. mediator Alvaro de Soto said.

He said, "we have achieved certain progress and the negotiations are advancing" during three days of negotiations here.

The talks, which began Friday and are scheduled to continue through Wednesday, are the fourth round of negotiations this year between the government and the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 15 killed in Polish train crash

WARSAW (R) — At least 15 people were killed and 57 injured Monday when an international express train smashed into the back of a slower train near Warsaw, officials said. A rescue officer at the scene said four more bodies were probably trapped inside the crushed rear carriage of the front train. He said 22 of the injured would have to stay in hospital. A railway manager, Zenon Pszczolkowski, said the accident happened in thick fog at about six a.m. (0400 GMT) after the driver of the Prague-Warsaw Express apparently missed a signal to stop. "It will have to be established why the Prague-Warsaw Express was not stopped by the automatic brake system," Pszczolkowski said. He said the express was travelling at about 100 kilometres-per-hour and the other train at just 20 kilometres-per-hour.

#### Indian bus plunges killing 43

NEW DELHI (R) — A bus carrying Hindu pilgrims plunged into a river in northern India Monday, killing 43 and injuring 27, the Press Trust of India news agency said. The victims were all on a pilgrimage to the Ganges, Hinduism's sacred river, and included 10 children, the agency quoted police as saying. The bus was carrying 70 pilgrims from the Western state of Rajasthan who intended to bathe in the Ganges to celebrate a Hindu holy day. It crashed through the railings on a bridge over the Kali River in Uttar Pradesh state, police said.

#### 8 killed as bus hits truck

AVELLINO, Italy (R) — A bus carrying a group of folk singers and musicians slammed into the back of a truck in southern Italy early Monday, killing eight people and wounding 47, police said. The accident occurred at about 2 a.m. (midnight GMT) on the highway connecting Naples and Bari. According to initial police reports, the bus rammed into the back of a truck transporting tomatoes, sending both vehicles off the road. The cause of the accident was under investigation. The bus was returning from Potenza, where the folk group The Traditions had performed Sunday night. At least 10 of the injured were reported to be in serious condition.

#### Typhoon leaves 13 dead in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Typhoon Yancy, downgraded to a tropical storm, headed toward eastern China Monday after leaving 13 people dead and seven missing in Taiwan. Police said the victims either drowned in floods or were hit by falling objects. Among them were four men and a woman who drowned after five cars were swept off a bridge by floods in central Taiwan Sunday. Seven people were reported missing after they were washed away by floods, police said. Police said 14 people were injured by falling objects. Floods destroyed more than 9,800 hectares (24,400 acres) of rice paddies, fruit and vegetable fields on the island nation, officials said.

## 52 killed in Indian tribal clashes

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 52 people died and more than 100 were injured in four days of clashes between former head-hunting tribes in India's northeastern Nagaland state, officials said Monday.

Nagaland Chief Minister Vamuzo Phesao told Reuters by telephone from the state capital Kohima that fresh clashes were reported between the Naga tribes of Chang, Konyak and Yimchunger Monday.

"We thought the situation was under control with troops deployed at sensitive places Friday but the clashes spread to fresh areas with stories of Friday's killings getting round the state," he said.

The clashes began at the town of Tobu, about 350 kilometres from Kohima, when some youths of the Konyak tribe held a tribal ceremony to which the Chang tribe objected.

The Konyaks were the last of the Naga tribes to officially give up head-hunting in the 1950s.

Phesao said more paramilitary troops had been deployed in eastern districts of Nagaland bordering Burma where the situation was tense.

Police officials in Kohima said the clashes had led to killings and arson in at least 23 villages.

## Soviet army puts on show for foreign press

PUSHKIN, USSR (AP) — "We always eat like this," insisted the crew-cut Soviet draftee, stuffing a hunk of black bread in his mouth as he gestured at white tablecloths, artfully arranged salad plates and hovering waiters in the "ordinary" soldiers' canteen.

When a group of foreign journalists ventured out to the firing range of this 2nd Guards artillery base outside Leningrad, four soldiers with their Kalashnikov rifles and their round metal "doughboy"-style helmets snapped to attention. It was the merest coincidence that all four were members of the young Communist League.

The army did not go so far as to paint the grass green for a rare tour to four army bases by foreign correspondents. But soldiers had been busy painting everything else.

Organisers obviously took inspiration from a famous Russian field marshal, Prince Grigory Potemkin, who had fake villages erected overnight to greet Catherine the Great as she travelled through conquered territory.

Still, it was a remarkable decade by the army, which for decades considered foreign journalists to be spies. Most of the area surrounding Moscow is still forbidden territory for

non-Soviets because they might glimpse the fence of a military base.

On the tour, reporters and television crews were offered a mock tank-and-helicopter battle, a session with Soviet grenade launchers and the greasy experience of crawling inside an armoured personnel carrier and peering through tiny slits.

Like the U.S. army, the Soviets have discovered it is far cheaper to train on simulators than the real thing. The "film-trainer" for armoured personnel carrier drivers captured the roaring and sheer difficulty of controlling one of these monsters as they lumber off-road.

But the simulator had limitations. Its dashboard, with clunky meters and heavy manual buttons, looked like it belonged to the mid-1950s, not the age of high-tech warfare.

Crews for the big guns practised loading lightweight empty shell casings and pulling a string. All it lacked for theatre was someone yelling, "bang."

Draftees, stripped to the waist, lifted legs and arms in calisthenics more reminiscent of Jane Fonda than U.S. Marines. But their metal weights were not shiny barbells. They were worn-out tank treads.

Most young soldiers were

tongue-tied in the face of foreign journalists and high-ranking officers. But their shyness turned to rampant curiosity when they learned U.S. recruits earn \$670 a month in their 7 rubles. That's \$12 per month at the very best exchange rate.

The tour began on the hardly typical, pre-revolutionary base of the 2nd Guards, nestled among the splendourous gardens of the Czarist palaces outside Leningrad. It even had its own church — a crumbling, onion-domed beauty, boarded up so long that saplings grew from the crenellations.

The soldiers were reluctant to discuss the army's most serious problems: hazing, language difficulties among recruits from Asian republics who cannot speak Russian, and a critical shortage of housing for Soviet troops withdrawing from Eastern Europe.

Journalists hoping to see examples of the housing had to make do chatting with officers' wives at the Malorita Base near Brest. They said they had no problems.

While many units returning from Eastern Europe have nowhere to go, their husbands' paratrooper regiment took over an SS-20 missile base, abandoned by a larger unit

under a U.S.-Soviet nuclear weapons treaty.

"We were lucky. Everybody has a place to live," said Marina Petrovna, a captain's wife. Soviet journalists goggled at the wives, whose youthful looks and Hungarian fashions contrasted with the appearance of the average Soviet woman.

The political officers who ran the show borrowed a few tricks from Intourist, the government tourist agency — packing the schedule with travel and ceremonies that left little time for mixing with ordinary people.

As a result, the entourage was late for Gen. Boris Gromov's news conference and war-game show. Ten minutes into correspondents' questions, the hero of the Soviet Union and former Soviet commander in Afghanistan was drowned out by his own artillery fire.

Political officers looked on indulgently when the correspondents, many long-time residents who have picked up the Soviet habit of hoarding, cleared out the military shop's supply of paratrooper T-shirts, officers' caps and army watches.

The hottest item was an army belt — leather with a brass hammer-and-sickle buckle — for \$2 and 60 cents.

## COLUMN

### Havel leads applause for Rolling Stones

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak President Václav Havel and his wife Olga led 100,000 fans in a standing ovation for the Rolling Stones after their first concert in Czechoslovakia Saturday night. The capacity crowd, ranging from children under ten to people in their 60s, including hundreds in wheelchairs, waved and cheered during the show in Prague's huge Strahov Stadium. Lead singer Mick Jagger, 47, spoke briefly in Czech to the excited fans, who danced through the two-and-a-half hour show despite drizzling rain. The crowd sang along to his such as "Miss You," "Honky Tonk Woman," "Jumpin' Jack Flash" and "You Can't Always Get What You Want." The Rolling Stones came to Czechoslovakia at the personal invitation of Havel, who had offered to help pay the group's expenses. The rock and roll group performed for free, declaring the concert a charity show, the first on their current Urban Jungle '90 tour. Profits will be used to help the handicapped and children.

### Vatican to allow more tests on Turin Shroud

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican will allow more probes into the origins of the Shroud of Turin, reputed to be Christ's burial cloth but exposed in 1983 as a medieval fake. "The church will take into consideration each serious and competent proposal without imposing conditions except that of not damaging the sacred shroud," Vatican chief spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said Saturday. Navarro said 1983 carbon-dating tests made in Britain, the United States and Switzerland which showed the relic dated from between 1260 and 1390 — at least 1,200 years after the death of Jesus Christ — were as valid as any before or afterwards. But he said the 4.4-metre shroud, kept in a silver casket in Turin, posed problems for scientists. "The way the image was formed remains quite mysterious," Navarro was speaking after the announcement of a new archbishop of Turin, Monsignor Giovanni Saldarini.

### 140 Buddhist monks infected with AIDS

BANGKOK (R) — More than 140 Buddhist monks are among the 20,200 HIV carriers reported in Thailand's latest AIDS survey. The figures were announced at a conference on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the resort island of Phuket, an official of the Communicable Disease Control Department said. Of the total figure, 23 per cent were gay men and 67 per cent intravenous drug users. The AIDS carriers included 68 policemen, the official said. Thailand, concerned about the rapid spread of AIDS through its flourishing sex trade, has launched an all-out prevention and control campaign funded by \$4.7 million from the World Health Organisation and foreign governments.

### Salvage group gets \$1b treasure

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — A federal judge has awarded about three tons of gold worth as much as \$1 billion to the salvage group that discovered the sunken treasure off the South Carolina coast. U.S. District Judge Richard B. Kellam rejected arguments by a group of insurance companies, Columbia University, two treasure hunters and a Catholic order of monks who claimed a share of the fortune. The SS Central America, carrying about three tons of gold bars and coins from California, sank in the Atlantic Ocean on Sept. 12, 1857. In 1987, the Columbus America Discovery Group found the wreck about 260 kilometres off Charleston, South Carolina, and under a mile and a half (two and a half kilometres) of water. "I'm ecstatic because my clients are ecstatic," said Columbus America attorney Richard Robol. "The question of who owns the gold has been answered. Columbus America owns the gold." Robol has said the fortune could reach \$1 billion, but Columbus America partner Barry Schatz said a figure half that size would be more realistic.